

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3663

UNCLAS ROME 3372

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON

SUBJ: UNIDROIT: MEETING OF FINANCE COMMITTEE

REF : STATE 043879

ROME 3083

1. FINANCE COMMITTEE MET MARCH 8 AS SCHEDULED TO DISCUSS PROPOSALS OUTLINED ROME REFTEL. AT SUGGESTION OF CHAIRMAN (GRANIER), PROPOSALS WERE CONSIDERED IN REVERSE ORDER WITH QUESTION OF POSSIBLE REVISION OF CLASSIFICATION OF MEMBER STATES COMING FIRST. TWO MAJOR POINTS CONSIDERED UNDER THIS RUBRIC WERE A) CLOSER ALIGNMENT THROUGHOUT OF UNIDROIT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO SYSTEM IN FORCE IN UN AND B) RECLASSIFICATION OF CERTAIN COUNTRIES TO PLACE THEM IN OPPOSITE CATEGORIES.

2. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT WAS MADE AT OUTSET BY BOTH GRANIER AND SECRETARY GENERAL MATTEUCCI THAT MEETING HAD BEEN CALLED ON SHORT NOTICE--EXCUSE GIVEN WAS AVAILABILITY OF INTER-PRETERS -- AND THAT MAJORITY OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. NEVERTHELESS, AND DESPITE FACT THAT SEVERAL MEMBERS INCLUDING US URGED THAT NO DECISIONS BE TAKEN PENDING INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS, ADVISORY VOTES WERE TAKEN ON BOTH ITEMS A) AND B) ABOVE. FIRST VOTE ON PROPOSAL TO REVISE PRESENT CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM TO CORRESPOND TO UN SYSTEM WAS DEFEATED WITH US REPRESENTATIVE VOTING WITH MAJORITY.

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SECOND VOTE ON PROPOSAL TO INSTRUCT SECRETARY GENERAL TO CONTACT

GDR TO SEEK ITS AGREEMENT TO RECLASSIFICATION TO HIGHER CATEGORY IN LIGHT OF ITS GNP AND UN SCALE WAS PASSED WITH US ABSTAINING.

3. REMAINDER OF DISCUSSION FOCUSSED ON BUDGETS FOR 1975, 1976, AND 1977, INCLUDING DETERMINATION OF THE UNIT OF CONTRIBUTION OF MEMBER STATES. MATTEUCCI LED OFF DISCUSSION BY EXPLAINING THAT BUDGETARY ESTIMATES PROVIDED BY SECRETARIAT WERE CONTINGENT ON FOLLOWING FACTORS: A) COST OF LIVING INCREASE; B) ASSIMILATION OF STAFF MEMBERS TO REDUCE SOCIAL SECURITY PAYMENTS; C) ANNUAL RATHER THAN TRIENNIAL INCREASES IN PAYMENTS BY MEMBER STATES AND D) INCREASE IN ITALIAN CONTRIBUTION. MATTEUCCI STRESSED THAT IF ANY OF THESE FACTORS SHOULD NOT BE PRESENT, THEN ENTIRE ESTIMATE WOULD FALL AND HAVE TO BE RECALCULATED.

4. FOLLOWING DESULTORY DISCUSSION OF CERTAIN ITEMS IN PROPOSED 1975 BUDGET RELATING CHIEFLY TO EXPENDITURES AND REVALUATION OF SWISS FRANC AS ACCOUNTING UNIT FROM 150 TO 200 LIRE, GRANIER SUGGESTED THAT FURTHER CONSIDERATION WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT INSTRUCTIONS FROM GOVERNMENTS. PROPOSALS WERE THEN AGREED TO A) SEND RELEVANT DOCUMENTS PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT TO MEMBER GOVERNMENTS AND B) TO FORM SUBCOMMITTEE TO STUDY MATERIALS PRESENTED AND REPORT TO COMMITTEE. AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, IT WAS AGREED THAT SUBCOMMITTEE WOULD CONSIST OF REPRESENTATIVES FROM NIGERIA, SPAIN, URUGUAY AND UNITED STATES PLUS GRANIER IN HIS CAPACITY AS FINANCE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN.

5. FINAL ITEM OF BUSINESS WAS EFFORT BY MATTEUCCI TO HAVE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 5 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING APPROVED. COMPLAINING THAT MEMBERS OF COMMITTEE HAD RECEIVED MINUTES PREPARED BY SECRETARIAT ONLY AT OUTSET OF PRESENT MEETING, GRANIER RULED THAT APPROVAL WOULD HAVE TO BE CARRIED OVER UNTIL NEXT MEETING. AFTER REVIEW BY EMBASSY OFFICER WHO ATTENDED FEBRUARY 5 MEETING, MINUTES WILL BE POUCHED TO DEPARTMENT. VOLPE

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